

REVIEWS.

A CLINICAL ATLAS OF VENEREAL AND SKIN DISEASES, INCLUDING DIAGNOSIS, PROGNOSIS, AND TREATMENT. By ROBERT W. TAYLOR, A.M., M. D., Surgeon to Charity Hospital, New York, etc. Illustrated with one hundred and ninety-two figures, many of them life-size, on fifty-eight beautifully colored plates, also many large and carefully executed engravings through the text. Parts I. and II. Venereal Diseases. Philadelphia: Lea Brothers and Co., 1888.

A DISTINGUISHED American artist has lately declared that no one can by the aid of words alone so graphically describe a picture to even the most skilful artist, that the latter can, without other knowledge, make even the faintest attempt at a reproduction of the original. Here one may estimate the disadvantages of the didactic over the clinical methods of teaching medicine. There are few clinical teachers who surpass in advantages the best portraits of disease. It is a marvellous matter that the Atlases are not preferred, as they should be, above all the treatises. It is, however, true that they are not. The Atlas before us furnishes a fund of information of the most practical sort that is quite inaccessible to one who has not enjoyed a large clinical experience and who is compelled to rely on the printed page for the knowledge required in venereal and cutaneous disorders.

In this matter of eye-instruction as compared with ear-instruction, the savage is in advance of the scientist. Mr. Edouard Muybridge has photographed an Indian blanket sent by LaFayette to France in the last century, on which horses are represented with the anatomical accuracy displayed on the frieze of the Parthenon, and recently demonstrated to be faithful to nature by Mr. Muybridge's remarkable photographs taken instantaneously of animals in motion. One careful study of a faithful portrait of disease is often worth more than reading a learned essay on the same theme. The former is like the unconsciously acquired familiarity with the features of an acquaintance; the latter, like reading his biography.

Dr. Taylor's admirable Atlas is so suggestive on many of the themes that interest the modern student of medicine, that one might readily be tempted to deliver a clinical lecture on the basis of the well-drawn figures and carefully tinted illustrations which its pages spread before the observant eye. Here are exhibited almost every one of the results of the pathological processes occurring in the skin and the mucous surfaces of the body. There is scarce a figure in any plate that does not surpass, in value to the student, all the writings of Boerhaave and some of the more modern treatises by less distinguished men. It is easy to understand, as we glance at the portraits thus faithfully drawn, why Mr. Seymour Haden was so earnest in impressing upon his students in surgery the importance of acquiring the art of drawing with a view to fixing more indelibly in the memory the features of external disease. "The

modern Rembrandt," as he has been called, confesses to having himself first engaged in his favorite work of etching merely as an aid to his surgical work.

The illustrations before us are new and old, and we are in no fear of contradiction when recommending the old with the new. Just in proportion as the old are faithful, are they as good as, or better than, the new. It is now nearly a half century since Rayer¹ first gave his fine plates of skin and venereal diseases to the scientific world, and was followed by Trüstedt and Behrend,² who, with Dr. Taylor's commendable foresight, availed themselves of the best that had then preceded. Fifty years in one sense, is not a long period; but in another it constitutes a cycle, as, for example, in measuring the progress of the world's advance in knowledge. When Rayer first published his plates, there was no electric telegraph in operation; and the entire modern system of postal transmission was not yet conceived in the fertile brain of Sir Rowland Hill. The whole pitiful career of the "Little Napoleon" was yet to be a part of history. The works then written and studied as authoritative in medicine are now, save for the collector of medical bric-a-brac, worth simply the price of old paper per pound! And yet, wonderful to relate in comparison, but yet only truth to tell (for the truth of to-day is the truth of to-morrow if only it be a real truth), Rayer's faithful plates of external disease, copied, quaint costumes and all, by Trüstedt and Behrend, are not shown to be false by the brilliant portraits and striking illustrations of disease furnished by our latest author! If one looks with care, for example, at the excellent representation here given (Part II., Plate XIV., Fig. 1) of the small pustular syphilide, he will find there only the same syphilis portrayed by the eminent Frenchman a half century before! But if he studies it closely and with the careful scrutiny of the medical artist, he will recognize a more definite purpose to exhibit the exact shade of color, size, pustular apex, and physiognomy of the individual lesion, with a pre-Raphaelite minuteness of detail, the general effect being to produce a picture of the skin in disease which can scarcely be surpassed in its value when one considers the needs of the physician.

Dr. Taylor's Atlas can be well commended to the profession as a credit to American medical literature. The publishers deserve special praise for the elegance of the typography and the care taken to produce the colored plates with the most artistic results.

J. N. H.

KLINIK DER VERDAUUNGSKRANKHEITEN. Von DR. C. EWALD, Professor e. o. an der Universität, dirigirender Arzt am Augusta Hospital zu Berlin. II. DIE KRANKHEITEN DES MAGENS. Berlin, August Hirschwald, 1888.

DISEASES OF DIGESTION. By DR. C. EWALD. II. THE DISEASES OF THE STOMACH.

THIS work occupies the middle space in a series of three of which the first, the *Physiology of Digestion*, has already appeared, while the last,

¹ *Traité des Maladies de la Peau*, par M. Rayer, etc. Paris, 1835.

² *Ikongraphische Darstellung der nicht-syphilitischen Hautkrankheiten*, mit darauf bezüglichen systematischem Texte, unter Mitwirkung des Herrn Geheimrath Dr. Trüstedt und Dr. Fred. Jakob Behrend, Leipzig, 1832.